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SUBJECT Return of Korean Troops from China

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SOURCE

1. Korean troops in the Chinese Communist armies were assembled in Chientao and Tunghua Provinces in August 1949 in preparation for return to North Korea. More than 20,000 Koreans from the Chinese Communist forces in Central China were returned to Yenchi (129-30, 42-55), under the command of CHON U (全宇). He is a 36-year-old native of Hoeryong, trained in the Communist university in Moscow, who in 1947 was vice commander of the 8 Route Army in the Yen Pien (延平) District (former Chientao Province and part of Mutanchiang and Tunghua Provinces). Part of the Korean troops were released at Yenchi to return to their homes and assist with the autumn harvest.
2. Other elements of these forces were to be accommodated in Hoeryong (129-45, 42-25) during the winter of 1949-1950.* The barracks formerly occupied by the Japanese Army 17 Regiment in Hoeryong were being prepared in early September, and necessary winter military supplies were being brought in. Regimental commander KIM Pyong-ak (金秉岳) of Ch'un Fang Ts'un (春芳村), Chu Ch'ing Hsien (注清縣), Chientao Province, stated that the troops returned from China would have accomplished their mission only after gaining final victory against the South Korean army. The staff of the unit includes eight former Japanese officers, all Communists, who are completely accepted by the Koreans and assist in forming combat plans.
3. The Korean Communist troops are mostly armed with Japanese rifles and Soviet automatic rifles. They also have some heavy arms, such as American-made trench mortars and heavy machine guns. As they have no aircraft, transport of military supplies is handled by truck. Troops wear either American or Chinese-made uniforms.

25X1X * Comment: Korean troops returned from China have been reported stationed at many points in North Korea, in numbers varying from several hundred to over 20,000. 25X1A

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